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School Committee minutes 06/08/2004

THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2004
7:30 PM

Present: Paul Schlichtman, Chair Joani LaMachia
Jeff Thielman, Vice Chair Suzanne Owayda
Martin Thrope, Secretary Sue Sheffler
Barbara Goodman

Superintendent Kay Donovan
Asst. Supt. Joanne Gurry
Sp. Ed. Director Marilyn Bisbicos

Absent: Rob Addelson

Call to order: 7:30 PM

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Charlotte Peirce – Coordinator of the Arlington Spanish Network Spanish Program spoke relative to the program. The Arlington Spanish Network is comprised of parents, teachers and administrators. Since its formation the network has raised funds to provide materials to students and teachers, loaned materials to those in need, and coordinated the Spanish Fiesta. The Arlington Spanish Network wants to support the continuation of the APS Spanish program in any possible way and is willing to raise funds to do so.

FIELD TRIP APPROVAL

Cheryl Hemenway, choral director at AHS requested permission from the School Committee for two field trips during the 2004-2005 school year. The first request was for the AHS Madrigals and Honors Orchestra to participate in a performance tour of Vienna, Austria and Venice, Italy during the February 2005 school vacation. Students would miss two days of school.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman seconded by Ms. Owayda it was unanimously

Voted tentative approval for the AHS Madrigal Singers & Honors Orchestra Performance Tour of Vienna and Venice February 16-25, 2005

The second request was for the AHS Performing Arts Dept. to travel to NYC on October 15 & 16th 2004, with students missing one day of school.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously

Voted to approve the Performing Arts field trip to NYC October 15 & 16th 2004 as presented

Mr. Thrope took the opportunity to thank the committee and community for their expressions of sympathy in the passing of his father. Mr. Thrope noted that upon arrival to the meeting of May 22nd he was surprised to learn that most of the agenda had been completed. Mr. Thrope stated that he believed that there were a number of important issues on the agenda that merited deeper inquiry and in depth discussion and pointed out that in the future he will be present at every meeting from gavel to gavel.

REVIEW OF DISTRICT ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER & ELEMENTARY SPANISH PROGRAMS.

Dr. Gurry reported that ELL director Paula Leoni-Bacchus was unable to attend the meeting due to an emergency hospitalization that day.

Paula wrote a letter to the School Committee reviewing new initiatives in her program. Dr. Gurry reviewed the content of the letter and the program changes.

- .. Staff and professional development
- .. District wide improvement plan
- .. ELL goals/hiring a elementary ELL teacher
- .. Instruction materials

- .. Parent Advisory Council
- .. ELL website

Laura Goldstein reviewed the Spanish Elementary Program. The program has been in existence for five years and will not be offered next year due to the lack of grant money. Ms. Goldstein suggested that if the current twice per week schedule is maintained that a language lab could be created with students using audio visual programs. Supt. Donovan did express concern about the difficulty principals would have in trying to schedule the program considering the put backs of library, art and ACE.

REVIEW SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH CONSULTING PROPOSALS

School Committee members reviewed proposals from the six presenting firms on the superintendent search. Each member was given the opportunity to speak to each proposal and the firms were then rated using worksheets and comparative criteria.

9:10 – 9:25 Break

SELECTION of SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH FIRM FINALISTS

Mr. Schlichtman and Ms. Owayda tallied the worksheets and presented the final scores of the search firms.

The four finalists were Firm A, Firm F, Firm D, and Firm C. The finalists will be invited to interview at the June 22nd meeting that will begin at 7:00 pm. Each interview will last 30 minutes. The Committee agreed that the price proposals would be opened after the interviews took place and that Ms. Owayda and Mr. Thielman would conduct reference checks before the next meeting.

UPDATE ON AHS PRINCIPAL

Supt. Donovan reported that the two finalists had been interviewed. The search committee will conduct a site visit on Dr. Daniel Burke from Melrose High School on June 16th and Mr. Charles Skidmore of Brighton High School on June 15th. Mrs. Donovan will hold a forum for community members, parents, teacher and students on June 16 at 7:00 pm in the school committee room to meet the candidates.

COMMITTEE VOTES

Job Description

On a motion by Ms. Goodman seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously Voted to refer the Director of Science Education K-12 job description to the curriculum, instruction, and assessment subcommittee for approval. (the subcommittee will meet before the next regular meeting).

2005-2006 School Calendar

On a motion by Ms. Goodman seconded by Ms. Owayda it was Voted to approve the 2005-2006 school calendar. 6-1 (Mr. Schlichtman no vote), Mr. Thrope noted a conflict of a Jewish holiday on October 25, 2005.

Warrant Approval

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Ms. Owayda it was unanimously Voted to approve warrant # 04158 in the amount of \$186,713.35.

PAYT Appointment

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Ms. Sheffler it was unanimously Voted to appoint Ron Sender as the school committee representative to the PAYT committee

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy Procedures

Mr. Thrope brought the following policies forward for a 2nd reading and approval.

Policy BDE School Committee Subcommittees – Ms. Goodman voiced her concern over issues being submitted at the subcommittee level without first coming before the full committee.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope, seconded by Mr. Thielman it was unanimously Voted to approve the amendments to File BDE School Committee Subcommittees.

Policy JJA Student Travel

On a motion by Mr. Thrope, seconded by Mr. Thielman it was unanimously Voted to adopt File JJA Student Travel.

Policy JJA-R Student Travel Regulations

On a motion by Mr. Thrope, seconded by Mr. Thielman it was unanimously Voted to adopt File JJA-R Student Travel Regulations

Policy IJOA Field Trips –

On a motion by Mr. Thrope, seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously Voted to approve the amendments to File IJOA Field Trips.

Policy BDFA-E Conduct of School Council Business

On a motion by Mr. Thrope, seconded by Ms. Owayda it was unanimously Voted to approve the amendment to File BDFA-E.

On a motion by Ms. Sheffler seconded by Mr. Thrope it was unanimously Voted the 11:00 rule for 15 minutes.

Mr. Thrope presented the following policies to the Committee for a 1st reading.

Policy BDFA-E-3 District-Wide Goal Setting & Performance Objective Process

Policy BEDB - Agenda Format/Preparation & Dissemination - Mr. Schlichtman made note of the fact that he would not be in favor of the addition of **new business** to the agenda format.

Policy GCF professional staff hiring

Policy GCQF Suspension & Dismissal of Professional Staff Members

Policy JLCCB Life Threatening Allergies – Mr. Thrope would like this policy approved at the next meeting to ensure that it is on the books before the start of the school year.

Policy BAA Evaluation of School Committee Procedures – Ms. Sheffler suggested that feedback from administrators, school councils and the community may provide a more accurate evaluation. The Committee discussed the merits of conducting the self-evaluation of a trial basis, and how to follow up on the results of the evaluation. Mr. Schlichtman offered to invite a representative from MASC to review the results and conduct a workshop over the summer.

On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Ms. Sheffler it was unanimously Voted to adopt the process for the school committee self-evaluation as presented.

Mr. Thrope announced that the next policy and procedures subcommittee meeting would take place on June 17, at 1:00 pm.

Redistricting Advisory Team

Ms. Sheffler reported that its meeting the redistricting team discussed:

- Primary guiding principles for redistricting; school capacity, local schools and rebuild of schools cannot be used as criteria to postpone redistricting.
- Secondary guiding principles for redistricting , safety of students
- Open enrollment policy to be referred to the subcommittee
- The redistricting team will meet again in July

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Thrope reviewed correspondence.

Approval of minutes

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Ms. Owayda it was

Voted to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 11, 2004. 6-0-1 Mr. Thrope abstain

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Ms. Owayda it was

Voted to approve the executive session minutes of May 11, 2004. 6-0-1. Mr. Thrope abstain

Mr. Schlichtman requested that school committee members submit the superintendent evaluation included in the packet be submitted in due diligence.

Supt. Donovan stated that at the next school committee meeting she would request a later start to the school day for the K-2 students at the Dallin School. Mrs. Donovan explained that the later start (15 minutes) would avoid having the students being picked up as early as 7:10 in the morning. The parents and staff are agreeable to the schedule change.

On a motion Ms. Owayda seconded by Mr. Thrope it was unanimously

Voted to adjourn 11:15 PM

Submitted by

Karen Tassone

Committee Secretary